



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

September 2003 Volume 64 Number 7

club address: www.halifax-arc.org



Hope you had a Great Summer



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

<u>Position Name & Call Sign</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	velai@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	velwo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	velent@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	veldhd@rac.ca
Treasurer - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF	835-6651	veljhf@rac.ca

Member at Large -

Club Station Mgr. - John Goodwin, VE1CDD 865-5731 velcdd@rac.ca

Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 velmr@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH 832-3660 velwph@rac.ca

IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager -

Bob Burns, VE1VCK 865-9414 velvck@rac.ca

EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP 466-8723 dgeorge@is.dal.ca

Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT 865-8567 velent@rac.ca

Reflector Distribution- Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 velgtc@rac.ca

Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 velgtc@rac.ca

Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS, 826-1705 ewetr@hfx.eastlink.ca

Basic ham course Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 velqd@rac.ca

Assistant -

EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA 435-4333 veleda@rac.ca

Flea market 2004 Chair'man -

Field Day coordinator -

RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM, 860-1580 velwjm@rac.ca

NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 veltri@rac.ca

Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL

The **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our speaker will be Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH, talking about the history of CHU. Guests are welcome.

NOTICE OF MOTION

To spend up to \$300 for club display material, such as posters, enlarged photos, etc.

RAC

President - Bill Gillis, VE1WG

First Vice President - Vacant

Secretary -

Dawn MacKay, VE1MAK

Maritimes Section Manager -

Hugh Clark, VE9HC,

Atlantic Director -

David Nimmo, VE1NN

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes. This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Sept. 14	Charles	VE1MCR
Sept. 21	Chris	VA1CDB
Sept. 28	Tom	VE1GTC
Oct. 5	Herb	VE1HX
Oct. 12	Doug	VE1LDL



The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (a little after the paper copy) courtesy of Rob Ewert, VE1KS, by connecting to www.halifax-arc.org

The NSARA web site is at... <http://users.auracom.com/nsara/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET:

Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

AMSAT Net: Sunday evenings following the Take 15 Net.

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

Coming Events

Tune in to the "Amsat Net" Sunday evenings after the Take-15 Net with Wayne, VE1WPH.

Coming soon – Practice Net – Amateur Radio communications for emergency response

If you know of anyone who wants to take the Amateur radio basic course they should contact course coordinator, Scott Wood, VE1QD,
Phone 823-2761
Email ve1qd@rac.ca

October 7, 8, 9, 2003 – **APCO** (Association of Professional Communications Officers) **Conference** – EMO Coordinator, Barry Manuel, wants us to show off our versatile & valuable hobby. (In return ham volunteers get free access to the trade show.)

Dave George, VE1AJP, who is coordinating the ham presence needs at least 12 volunteers per day for the following tasks:

- 2 for the Dispatch Center
- 3 in vans (collecting conference attendees)

- 2 at our booth (to publicize local amateur radio, RAC & the NSARA) at the Trade Show which will be part of the conference.

Runners

- 1 at the presentations

Contact Dave George, VE1AJP to arrange your participation.

E-mail ve1ajp@rac.ca

2003 Space Symposium and Annual Meeting **Oct. 17-19, 2003** in Toronto, Ontario

http://www.barc.ca/amsat_ca/

October 18 – Greenwood Fleamarket

It's never too early to arrange for

December - Betty, VE1BSW, is searching out a place to hold our 2003 Christmas party.

February – Ham breakfast

February – GOTA (Guides on the Air) - we need a coordinator and volunteers for tasks.

June - Field Day 2004 – we need a coordinator and volunteers for various tasks.

Scheduled entertainment for HARC general meetings:

October - Ron Weagle, VE1RHW, on Fast Scan TV

November – Annual meeting and election of our executive for 2004

From July's Mail

Good Afternoon Everybody:

I have just received a post from Pierre Mainville, RAC Vice Pres. Field Services, advising that he has appointed Hugh Clark, VE9HC, as the Maritimes Section Manager for the remainder of this current term, about 18 months I think.

All Clubs and amateur organizations within the Maritimes are encouraged to forward Hugh news of all amateur activities, plans, dreams, etc. in order that he can let the rest of these Canadians know just how active we are down this way.

Hugh can be reached at
ve9hc@nbnet.nb.ca

Regards,.. David, VE1NN,
RAC Atlantic Region Director

CALL BOOK 2004

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club will consider producing a call book for May, 2004. To do this we will need volunteers now.

We need a volunteer to be co-ordinator and editor. A committee of people are needed and some of the positions required are as follows.

Editor: - Co-ordinates the project, keeping the individual teams on the project time line.

Advertising: - Two or three people.

Information fillers: -

Three or more people.

Maps: - One person.

Proof reading: - several people.

Cover design and collating book layout: - Two or more people.

Graphics design for unfinished ads: - One or two people.

Long term storage of unsold books: - One person.

Sales: - One or two people.

Distribution: - One or two people.

Public relations: - 3 or more people.

Information gathering: -

3 or more people.

Corrections contacts: -

One or two people.

The more people who are doing the jobs above, the less time any one person has to spend on it.

Please consider one or more of the above and let the executive know of your interest.

If we do not have a full committee by the October meeting then the Membership will need to decide if we are going to do a call book.

The **Greenwood 15th Annual Amateur Radio and Electronics Flea Market** will be held as in previous years, in the Greenwood Community Centre, on **Saturday the 18th of October**, from **10:00 AM until 2:00 PM**. With doors open to sellers at 8AM. The format and content of the function will basically be as in previous years. Come and enjoy our famous Bratwurst sausage in a bun!

Burt Amero VE1AMA will be taking bookings for tables.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me or one the members listed below.

We look forward to meeting you all at Greenwood.

Dave McHattie VEIRCN Flea Market Chairman 2003 (902) 765-9200

Guy Campbell VEINC President GARC (902) 825-6151

Burt Amero VEIAMA "Table Guy" (902) 847-7073



BASIC RADIO COURSE, 2003-04

The Basic Radio Course sponsored by HARC, and taught by senior club members, begins on 25 September. The course will meet each Thursday from 7:00 – 9:30 pm until the beginning of April, except for a one-month Christmas and New Year's break. The course provides 40 hours of instruction, including both classroom and hands-on sessions. It will prepare hobby newcomers for the entry level-licensing exam. We are aiming for a 100% pass rate by those completing the course!

The course contents follow the *RAC Study Guide for the Basic Exam*. Since the first meeting will be an introduction to ham radio, I urge each of you to encourage anyone you think may be interested in becoming a ham to join us that day. This first class will give those still uncertain about seeking a ham radio license an opportunity to hear about the many exciting dimensions of our hobby and obtain detailed information about the course.

The initial meeting will be held in the HARC clubroom at Bloomfield School, 2786 Agricola Street (the corner of Agricola and Almon streets). However, if the class size is large enough we may need to find another location for subsequent sessions.

Although Morse code is not a requirement for the entry-level license, passing a test at 5 words per minute provides significantly greater operating privileges. Instruction in *Morse code as a language for communications* will be provided to those wishing to qualify for an enhanced entry-level qualification. The code training sessions will be arranged at a time and place that is mutually agreeable to members of the class expressing an interest. Already licensed HARC members who wish to qualify for expanded HF privileges by upgrading their present qualifications will also be welcome to join the code class.

The Basic Radio Course fee is \$50 and includes Associate Membership in the club. However, students will also need to purchase, at a cost of \$45, the *RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) Study Guide for the Basic Exam*. Some books are already available through HARC. There is no charge for those wishing to take part in the Morse code proficiency training.

Any prospective students for the 2003-04 Basic Radio Course should contact me in order to reserve a place in the class and to obtain further information.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD

E-mail: VE1QD@rac.ca Telephone: 823-2761

A.P.R.S. NEWS

The APRS group meeting was held June 25th with a good turn out plus one new member. There was a discussion on APRS repeating and other related items.

The MS bike tour in August was an opportunity to see if we could supply APRS trackers and assist Rick VE1RGG with keeping track of a number of vehicles. Many thanks to all those who took part or provided equipment. A special thanks to John, VE1CDD, for his time and effort to program the KPC-3 on the EMO trailer, to repeat APRS packets from the MS vehicles. There was a number of lessons learned and our plan is to provide a better service next year.

The upcoming APCO conference will be our next chance to showcase Amateur Radio and APRS on Oct. 6th, 7th and 8th.

Our next meeting will be at 1930 September 24th at the club station.

David VE1EDA

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 28, July 18, 2003

Harmonics Web pages open up the possibilities of **ham radio for youngsters**: An 8-year-old kid's first crystal set, built with the help of his grandfather; hearing radio signals without electricity. That was how many veteran Amateur Radio operators were introduced to the magic of radio in past eras. The new century offers many avenues--including the Internet--through which youngsters can experience the same magic. With that in mind, ARRL Field and Educational Services introduces the Harmonics Web pages

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/youth/>

"The mission of the new Harmonics kids' pages is to expose children to the possibilities of Amateur Radio," said Educational Programs Coordinator Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS. The Web pages currently feature the first of a number of age-appropriate activities for kids. Web visitors can play games, download informative printouts to color, read news articles about other kids involved with ham radio, work puzzles, click on live links, listen to audio samples of Morse code and space station contacts and more.

The pages target kids aged 5 to 15. Harmonics invites them to get acquainted with the basic concepts of Amateur Radio through immediate personal interaction and by discovering how other kids are using ham radio for personal communication and to expand their exploration of science and technology.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 33, August 22, 2003

The popular **UO-14 FM satellite** (145.975 MHz up, 435.070 MHz down for Mode J) failed to appear on August 5 over the western Americas, but ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, later was able to reset the satellite from the UK.

"UO-14 is getting on toward 14 years and has completed on the order of 74,000 charge/discharge cycles of its NiCd batteries" Jackson said. "Let's hope it can manage a few more."

AMSAT-NA Vice President for User Services Bruce Paige, KK5DO--a regular satellite user--says many UO-14 users have migrated to another FM satellite, SaudiSat SO-50 (145.800 MHz up, 436.800 MHz down, 67 Hz CTCSS tone, for Mode J). "It is a bit more difficult to work as you have to have a 67-Hz PL tone," he said. "The polarity of the satellite changes many times during a pass." Paige notes that hams nonetheless have had success with handheld transceivers and very modest antennas. He said SO-50 is typically on over North America. --AMSAT News Service

Silent Key

Gerry Burnett (VE1GUN) BURNETT, Gerald Clarke, P1, Cd2, RCN, "The Rifleman" died Wednesday, August 6, 2003. Gerald is survived by his wife of 47 years, the former Dorothy Cornelius. Gerald served on ships HMCS Quebec (Queens Coronation), Iroquois (Korean Service), Granby, Micmac, Labradore, Restigouche, Cape Scott, Fort Erie, Yukon, Ottawa, Skeena, Margaree and Saguanay. A marksman, hence the nickname, he shot for the highest honours.

Gerry's obituary was in the Aug. 7, 2003 issue of Halifax Herald. -ed.

From the Mail Bag
Towers Threatened

You may know about the troubles some of us have had getting permission to erect towers in some towns, cities, and municipalities, if not then I urge you to take a moment and have a look at our web site at:

<http://ve7vic.ca/>

There is a selection named "Tower Controversy" worth a peek. Also, on the "radio dial" there is a button marked "Quarter Wave". The Quarter Wave is the newsletter for The West Coast Amateur Radio Association. The current quarter wave has quite a bit of info regarding our concerns.

As you will see from reading those two items the Federal government is looking into making changes in how towers are legislated. Local regulating bodies such as municipalities are eager to take away power to regulate tower installations from the feds and have that for themselves. There is a tendency by some local authorities to lump amateur radio towers in with cellular radio towers. This is unfortunate as commercial towers tend to be permanent fixtures. HAM towers are temporary and disappear when we die or move when we move. Also, amateur communications tends to be very short compared with commercial which generally get 24/7 usage..

The city of Calgary recently limited

a radio operator to a 40 foot tower, something that I personally think is silly. For most ham bands a 40 foot high tower does not approach a necessary height of 1/4 wave above ground nor is it safe as far as radiation goes. I would not want a next door neighbour to be pointing a 40 foot high antenna towards me with a kw of power being dumped into it. There has been huge controversy in the US and it looks like a minimum height without a permit is around 70 feet for cities and 100 feet on property with acreages. At least that's the way it appears but that does not look like it is chiseled in stone yet. Time will tell.

Anyway, we don't want to be legislated by local authorities, there are just too many NIMBY (not in my back yard) types to deal with. Radio communications is an international activity and should continue to be legislated by federal bodies using common sense. The regulations may need to be tightened up and spelled out in common English rather than extensive legalese that is unintelligible by mere mortals.

The only way to insure we get a real say in what happens is if enough amateur radio people take issue with the authorities. If we don't then silence is construed as consent and we get what we have earned. Fifty six thousand licensed amateur radio operators in Canada should be able to have a loud enough voice to be heard but only if we work in a unified voice.

We will be having at least 2 or more basic letters published on our web site which can be used directly or just as a basis for you and your members to use. Use your own discretion. Please be sure to speak up. If you are contacting friends in other provinces please check with them to see if they are aware of the possible changes in legislation and if they are not then pass along this information so that they, too, can be brought on board.

If there is any information that

your club wishes to contribute to us, things that we may not be aware of, please contact me and I will pass it on. Meanwhile I would encourage you to share this message your club members.

On the Red Green show Red always summarizes with "we are all in this together."

73 Donn Hilton, VA7DH
Education Co-Director
West Coast Amateur Radio Association,
Victoria BC

It's your hobby. If you care write to Prof. Townsend and Minister Rock.
-ed.

This is to do with tower issues our west coast friends (and others I'm sure) are fighting with.

Terry, VE1TRB

Message Sent: Saturday, July 26, '03
Subject: Tower Issue

My name is Peter Richardson. I am Chair of the West Coast Amateur Radio Assoc. Committee on Antenna Support Structures.

Please go to www.ve7vic.ca and read the "QuarterWave" newsletter, and then click on Tower Controversy (in blue). This gives you the issues and our ideas.

We should all be pushing Industry Canada to retain authority over Amateur Antenna support structures, and we would also like them to maintain the distinction between Amateur structures and commercial structures

Please spread this about your members, and encourage them to WRITE (SNAIL_ MAIL) to several of the important people, Federally and Provincially, plus Prof. Townsend.

Please inform me of your own activities, or any suggestions. Thank you for your assistance both in letter writing and in reaching as many of our colleagues in NS as you can, - your club, -others clubs, * and other Hams.

73 Peter, VE7PMR
ve7pmr@rac.ca

From the ARRL Letters, Vol. 22, No. 25, June 20, 2003 and No. 27, July 11, 2003

Broadband over Power Line (BPL) more commonly known as Power Line Carrier or PLC would use building and/or overhead power lines to conduct HF and low-VHF digital signals to network computers. The FCC has expressed its unabashed enthusiasm for BPL, which it views as a competitive Internet access point.

Under existing FCC rules, BPL systems may be built and used in the US right now. Present FCC Part 15 rules say that carrier-current systems--including BPL/PLC--need to meet the general radiated emission limits for unlicensed "intentional emitters." While the rules permit BPL at significant power levels, utilities would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels. BPL systems under development and in field trials use spectrum between 1.7 and 80 MHz, but the FCC is asking whether BPL should operate on other parts of the spectrum as well.

The ARRL has asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system." The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception.

Electric utility companies will operate many, if not most, BPL systems. Hams who have had experience dealing with power line interference and utilities' responses to complaints ... well some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams.

Studies suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 34 dB to 65 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. BPL systems that radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and occupy entire neighborhoods have

greater interference potential than localized systems, such as switching power supplies or electric motors.

For more information, see "Understanding the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/06/19/2/>>. An ARRL white paper, "Calculated Impact of PLC on Stations Operating in the Amateur Radio Service" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/C63NovPLC.pdf>> provides technical details. The ARRL's Broadband Over Power Line resource page contains links to worldwide studies and other resources.

From the ARRL Letters, Vol. 22, # 31, August 8, and # 33, August 22, 2003

Some **BPL** proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets and want the FCC to relax radiation limits.

During the ARRL forum at the West Gulf Division Convention Aug. 1-2 in Austin, Texas, Haynie previewed a short video highlighting a recent tour of BPL field trial sites by ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. In late July, Hare traveled to BPL trial communities in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York to take measurements over significant parts of the HF spectrum and initial readings at low-VHF. Driving a specially equipped vehicle loaded with radio gear and measurement devices, Hare said he didn't need to look long to find BPL interference. "The signals were all over," he said. "The interference found ranged from moderate to extremely strong."

The video shows the S meter of an HF transceiver holding steady in excess of S9 as the speaker emits a crackling din, which one observer described as sounding like a Geiger counter. Only the very strongest amateur signals broke through on 20 and 15 meters. Hare noted, however, that the field strengths of the various systems all were within FCC Part 15 limits for power line carrier (PLC) devices.

Each BPL system exhibited a unique sound depending upon the modulation scheme it used. While in most cases it sounded like static or pulse noise, in one city warbling "birdies" blanketed the bands at closely spaced intervals.

The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference.; and that the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public "... and the FCC should rely on documented test results and an impact of interference potential based on scientific, not marketing, criteria."

The ARRL said. BPL would impact not only hams but public safety low-band VHF systems and other mobile systems. In addition its own field tests "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference." It predicted signal levels of up to 30 dB over S9 on a typical amateur transceiver, "well beyond what would preclude amateur HF communications entirely."

To dramatize its point, the League urged the Commission to view video <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video>> shot during recent ARRL test-and-measurement forays to BPL field trial communities in four states. The ARRL said the type of degradation expected from BPL would transform 20 meters from a band with worldwide communication capabilities to one of limited regional communication capability.

The League also noted that comments in the proceeding so far have been silent on the interference susceptibility of BPL to ham radio signal ingress. The League predicted that even as little as 250 mW of signal induced into overhead power lines some 100 feet from an amateur antenna could degrade a BPL system or render it inoperative.

More information is available on the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/news/>

(Continued on page 9)

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of June 18th, 2003.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 Wednesday, June 18th, 2003 by Vice-President Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO), in the absence of President Dick (VE1AI) who was reported to be "feeding black flies" on a great little trout stream in Newfoundland.

Executive in attendance:

Past-President Bill Elliott (VE1MR), First Vice-President Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO); Second Vice-President Lynn Bowser (VE1ENT) and Secretary Howard Dickson VE1DHD. Station Manager John, VE1CDD

Regrets from Treasurer Jeremy Fowler (VE1JHF) and President Dick Grantham (VE1AI).

Silent Keys: No Silent Keys were identified.

Members in Hospital: Fraser (VE1WO) informed the membership that John (VE1DD) has been admitted to hospital; the membership wishes John a speedy and full recovery.

New Members & Guests: Two guests visiting the province from Tijuana Mexico were introduced, and Tom (VE1GTC) indicated that Pat Mullen (KB6OXX) and Ann Hines (KF6VUU) had joined the Club as Associate Members.

Minutes of May Meeting – Approval of these minutes as published in the June 2003 Reflector was moved by Bill (VE1MR) and seconded by George (VE1GAB). Scott (VE1QD) commended the Secretary on the quality of the minutes. There were no amendments. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Jeremy (VE1JHF) was absent but had forwarded a brief report which was read by the V-P Fraser (VE1WO). The current bank balance was reported to be \$3,7030.26, with three cheques outstanding and not yet cashed. Acceptance of the report was moved by Fred (VE1BSY) and seconded by Doug (VE1LDL). There was no discussion, but Howard (VE1DHD) informed the membership that there had

been extensive discussion of the annual club budget at the monthly meeting of the Executive. He informed the membership that the executive was comfortable with the current fiscal position of the club and indicated that all budgeted items were currently within or below budget. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Flea Market Report – Fraser (VE1WO) and Bill (VE1MR) reported on one of the more successful Down East Flea Markets in recent years, with an attendance of 395, up 50% over 2002. The major door prize, an ICOM-V8 2 metre HT was won by Larry VA1LW. Howard (VE1DHD) reported that he and Win (VE1WIN) had made \$415 in sales of used equipment at the HARC table. The 2004 Flea Market is scheduled for May 15th at the Halifax Forum Annex.

Club Station Report – John (VE1CDD) reported that the main activity currently relates to preparation for Field Day and that other activities were gearing down as a result of the normal summer hiatus. John reminded the membership of the International Ships on the Air weekend – July 19/20 on the Acadia. Operators and visitors alike are welcome.

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported two new Associate Members (see above under New Members and Guests) for a total of 2 Life Members; 28 Associate Members and 90 Full Members for a grand total of 120 members to date.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) reported in his "inimitable style", a very busy month with S&R.

EMO – Dave (VE1AJP) reminded the membership that we are moving into "forest-fire season" and to be sure to have HT battery packs charged in case Amateurs are called out to assist. Win (VE1WIN) raised the concern that in general the public is unaware of the capabilities of the Amateur Radio community in times of disaster, and likely would not know how to contact a HAM to assist

or pass messages. Dave (VE1AJP) reminded the membership that all local radio stations have emergency power and amateurs would be quickly assigned by the EMO to commercial radio stations to keep them in contact with the Emergency Operation Centre at the EMO.

EMO Training Course – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that the recent two, one-day Emergency Communication training courses were very successful with 14 to 15 members receiving training in emergency radio communication procedures. Tom plans to schedule communication practice sessions in the fall and will hold future training sessions as required. He reported that he plans to update the Basic Communication Training Manual this summer, and will hold an advanced communication course for Net Controllers in the fall.

Howard (VE1DHD) passed on a reminder from Bill Galloway (VE1WWG) of a Recognition Night at the EMO on Saturday June 21st for all Radio Amateurs who were involved in the September 11, 2001 activities at the EMO. This social event will be "pot luck".

Public Relations – Wayne (VE1WPH) informed the membership that he had invited the Mayor and Councillors to attend the Field Day activities at the EMO. The local media have all been invited as well, and the Weather Network has already confirmed their intention to do interviews because of the perceived importance of Amateur Radio in the upcoming hurricane season.

At Wayne's request the Mayor has proclaimed the week of June 23 to 29, 2003 "Amateur Radio Week" in HRM.

Wayne also reported on his visit to the Discovery Centre in Halifax where he received a warm reception. The Centre is excited at the possibility of having an Amateur Radio presence in the facility. Wayne indicated that initially they were looking at providing a two-metre link to the IRLP network via VE1HNS for the purpose of having children at the Centre participate in the Johnson Space Centre

broadcasts.

With the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, Wayne challenged the membership to consider over the summer how each could better contribute to the Club. This year has been a particularly busy and exciting one for the HARC; hopefully, 2004 will be even better.

OLD BUSINESS:

Letters to Lapsed Members – Fraser (VE1WO) indicated that a letter had been drafted to lapsed members, but it had not been sent. This initiative was further discussed at the June meeting of the Executive and it was decided to hold off and send the letter in early September.

Portable Display Unit – Wayne indicated that he had had good success in building a collapsible display unit, but it was not sufficiently complete to bring to the June meeting. He will have it available at the September club meeting.

Distance Education & Amateur Radio – Howard (VE1DHD) reported that the interest group that was identified at the May meeting will hold a brief organisational meeting following the Field Day briefing this evening.

Added by Secretary in drafting minutes – because of upcoming Field Day activities and the summer doldrums, the decision was to postpone meeting until early September. Howard to organize.

Amateur Radio & Boating – Wayne reported that he had followed up on the Boat Show lead provided by Win (VE1WIN). The theme of the 2004 Boat Show will be set in a week or less and if “Communication” is selected, the Club will have access to free booth space. Wayne will also follow up with local boat clubs, offering the services of the HARC in providing seminars on Amateur Radio Marine Mobile communication potential. Scott (VE1QD) informed the group of the success he has had using HF communication to keep in contact with two friends on a round-the-world sailing expedition over the last couple of years.

Call Book 2004 – Bill (VE1MR) made a request for support from the membership as the 2004 planning and production cycle begins for the next edition of the Maritime Callbook. Bill and Fraser reminded the membership of the huge financial impact that Callbook sales have on HARC activities. Without the Callbook revenues, club activities would have to be scaled back by as much as 50%. Bill indicated that he has served as Callbook Editor for the last two editions and wants to be relieved of this job. Fraser asked for a volunteer from the floor; none was forthcoming. Any member wishing to serve as Callbook Editor for 2004 and help the club in this extremely important way, please contact Bill (VE1MR@RAC.CA).

NEW BUSINESS:

Club Insurance – Bill (VE1MR) indicated that because of the significant increase in the cost of the Club insurance coverage, the Executive had requested that Jeremy (VE1JHF) and Bill search out alternative brokers. Jeremy reported that the RAC broker could provide the HARC with current coverage for \$860; Bill received a quote from a local broker for \$850. The Executive had been polled and all agreed to the purchase of insurance from the local firm, saving the Club over \$300. As this was a standing budget item, approval at the meeting was not required. This was reported for information only.

New Business from the Floor – Tom (VE1GTC) indicated that Rick (VE1RGG) needs 24 operators to assist with the MS Bike Tour this summer – August 9/10. Please contact Rick (VE1RGG@RAC.ca) if you can help out.

Door Prize – the prize was a 25-piece Starter Tool Kit won by Dave (VE1AJP).

50:50 Draw – the purse was won by George (VE1GAB)

On a motion by Scott (VE1QD) the meeting closed at 2040.

Entertainment:

John (VE1CDD) provided the entertainment for the evening. John laid

out the plans for Field Day and the Club's participation for the first time in the “F”-class, working out of the Dartmouth EMO facility in Woodside. John gave an excellent overview of the plan and the discussion was very positive. The HARC will provide an award plaque for the top-scoring club in “F”-class. Anyone wishing to assist with Field Day set-up at the EOC is requested to meet at the Bloomfield Centre by 3PM on Friday June 27th to help load equipment for transport to Dartmouth.

John is to be congratulated for his hard work and dedication to the Club as Club Manager and Field Day co-ordinator.

Respectfully submitted by
VE1DHD – Howard Dickson

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 25
June 20, 2003

*SAFETY FIRST, LAST & ALWAYS
Regardless of how much experience
you've had -ed.*

Well-known contester and DXer Steve Miller, N8SM (ex-WD8IXE), of Prosper, Texas, died June 15 as a result of a fall while working on his Amateur Radio tower. He was 38. An ARRL member, Miller had extensive experience in tower work and antenna installation. With the assistance of several other hams, Miller had erected a 136-foot tower on his property and installed several antennas as part of his overall effort to build a competitive contesting station.

Details of the mishap are not available. According to unofficial accounts, Miller had been working on his tower the morning of June 15, and, after a lunch break, told his wife that he had another hour's work left. Later, she heard a noise from the yard and found her husband lying on the ground. The rescue squad responding to her 911 call was unable to revive him.


*Seat belts are not as confining as
wheelchairs.*

An article & comments on PLB's -ed.
Locator Beacon's now "EVERYWHERE"


I picked this bit of news up from the Clearwater ARC and thought it might be of interest to you with respect to SAR. Undoubtedly these will be showing up in Canada very shortly, if they haven't already.

With the "safety" aspect clearly defined, there definitely is going to be a challenge with "false" or "malicious" beacons being set off with resulting expenditure of valuable resources. Hopefully, registration of the device will be the answer....???

73, Bob, VE1PQ

It would appear that many local  Search and Rescue teams will now need Radio Direction Finding teams to help them locate these small distress beacons; sometimes the last few feet are the hardest. It will also be interesting to see how the "False or malicious" alarm rate goes. Since several beacons in a small area would increase the difficulty, and it would be impossible to determine which beacon is a distress and which is accidental, until you had the beacon in hand. Timeliness in finding the beacon would be important, and some hams are good at RDF.

Will Holcomb, K4NIO

Paul J. Toth, NA4AR, forwarded the  original message which follows -ed.

EMERGENCY PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON SYSTEM BECOMES OPERATIONAL NATION-WIDE

Outdoor adventurers now have access to the technology used in the lifesaving satellite-tracked distress alerts carried by aviators and mariners. Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) became operational on July 1st in the continental United States.

The beacons emit a signal that can be tracked by a worldwide satellite search and rescue system when they are activated in an emergency. This signal is picked up by satellites oper-

-ated by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The new personal beacons have advanced features including global positioning system (GPS) technology, which make it easier and quicker for NOAA satellites to pick up distress signals and relay an accurate location to rescuers. The signals are relayed to the U.S. Mission Control Center at the NOAA Satellite and Information Center in Suitland, Md., for processing.

In the U. S., the PLB alerts are routed to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, the single federal agency for search and rescue in the 48 contiguous states. The AFRCC notifies the state rescue agency, or state police in the area where the PLB was activated.

The PLBs send out digital distress signals on the 406-megahertz frequency, which are detected by NOAA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) and Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES). GOES, the first to detect a beacon's distress signal receives the signals, which contain registration information about the beacon and its owner.

The satellites are part of the worldwide satellite search and rescue system called, COSPAS-SARSAT. The COSPAS-SARSAT system is a cluster of NOAA and Russian satellites that work together to detect distress signals anywhere in the world from PLBs and beacons aboard ships and airplanes.

Personal Locator Beacons will be available at outdoor sports & electronic retail outlets across the US. All owners of PLBs and other types of 406-megahertz beacons are required by law to register them with NOAA. The registration includes critical information such as the owner's name, address, telephone number and the PLB's unique I.D. number. The distress signal is checked against the registration database.

"A PLB is an effective tool only if people take the time to register it," Lt.

Col. Morgan added. "With this information, the AFRCC can validate an alert with one phone call to the designated emergency contact, who can vouch for the whereabouts of the beacon's owner."

NOAA Satellites & Information is the US's primary source of space-based meteorological & climate data. It operates the nation's environmental satellites.

NOAA Satellites and Information also operates three data centers, which house global databases in climatology, oceanography, solid Earth geophysics, marine geology & geophysics, solar-terrestrial physics and paleoclimatology.

from Dan Noah-WX4DAN, Warning
Coordination Meteorologist
- NWS Tampa Bay

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 33,
August 22, 2003

MORE COUNTRIES DROP MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

Countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to have access to HF. Affected countries also have granted HF privileges to their amateurs who hold "no-code" VHF/UHF licenses.

Joining Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and Germany are Norway and the Netherlands. Waiting in the wings are Austria and New Zealand.

The actions are in response to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 decision to delete the requirement to prove Morse code ability from the international Radio Regulations, leaving individual administrations to decide if they want to retain it.

- URL's:

the Norwegian Post and Telecommunication Authority web site is

<<http://www.npt.no/>>

the Norwegian Radio Relay League

<<http://www.nrll.no/>>

the Netherlands Radiocommunications Agency

<http://www.agentschaptelecom.nl/>

*artificial intelligence is no
match for natural stupidity.*

From the Mail Bag
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2003
Plasma Screen interference

Just thought I would "make your day" with an excerpt of a post I just received

By the time the 40 meter band is "swept clean" of broadcasters there will be a plasma screen in every home ! regards.. David VE1NN

Dear Pierre -

I don't think we have spoken. I am VA3UP and RAC member and am also the controller of the 40 meter Sandbox net on Saturday nights.

I own a 42" NEC Plasma screen that throws off large amounts of RF from about 6.3 to 8 MHz and has another spike just below 10 MHz. My receiving antenna is about 100 feet away and when the screen is on it pretty well obliterates the 40 meter band. NEC is aware of it and provides ferrite chokes that are not too effective. I have also seen references to the phenomenon on hamnets and in discussions on HF. Recently a neighbor across the street bought one and uses it almost continuously knocking me out of chair on Saturday night. At least I have the option of turning my own off.

In the last year these screens have dropped from over \$10,000 to \$4,000 and are still coming down. As HDTV becomes standard most people will have them. I cannot understand how anything that radiates so much can be legal but it apparently is.



(Continued from page 5)

features/2003/07/08/1/
More information & video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

Power Outage – August, 2003

Ham Radio provided emergency communications during the August power outage in Ontario & the Northeast and Midwest, USA

Millions could not access e-mail or the Internet.. Landline and cellular telephone networks & nodes were overloaded and jammed by a crush of calls. But ham radio volunteers went to work immediately power went down Thursday afternoon.

Hams connected firefighters & police departments, Red Cross workers and other emergency personnel. Tom Carrubba, a coordinator for ARRL in New York City's five boroughs and two counties on Long Island, said "In five minutes guys were on the air with the Red Cross and Office of Emergency Management" Carrubba estimated that about 100 ham radio ops operating from a Red Cross headquarters or shelter, fire department, or hospital handled 800 to 1,000 communications from Thursday afternoon until early Friday. One hospital was temporarily without AC power and ARRL volunteers provided communications to ambulances until electricity was restored.

Courtesy of Nigel, VE1NPS

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, #21, At Hamvention 2003

New product announcements are a big part of the Dayton experience, with 2003 proving no exception. Among the scores of offerings, ICOM unveiled the feature-filled IC-7800, heir apparent to its high-end IC-781. The IC-7800 is expected to be available by year's end. Elsewhere, Ten-Tec showed off its new Titan III amplifier, while Elecraft introduced its new series of VHF transverters.

Gerald Youngblood, AC5OG, presented a fully software-defined radio that puts out 1 W of RF from the LF range to 60 MHz. Programming defines nearly every aspect of the radio.

Editor's Note

*Since I have been editing the HARC Reflector many people have sent in pertinent and interesting articles, questions, pictures, etc. for our Club publication. **Thank you!!** Your contributions make the HARC Reflector interesting & enjoyable to those who get the paper copy and those who access it on the web. -Lynn, VE1ENT*

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 30
August 1, 2003

The 22nd annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference will take place September 21-23 in Hartford, Connecticut. At the heart of the conference are technical presentations by amateurs & experimenters. Guest speaker is Alex Mendelsohn, AI2Q, senior technology editor at ChipCenter <<http://www.chipcenter.com>> and the author of "NASA, NORAD, Amateur Radio, and Me," <<http://www.chipcenter.com/TestandMeasurement/ed024.html>>. Introductory seminars will include "Intro to WSJT" by Del Schier, K1UHF; "Intro to EchoLink and VoIP" by Jon Taylor, K1RFD; "Intro to PSK31" by Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and "Intro to APRS" by Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, who also will moderate an APRS networking mini-seminar. Matt Ettus, N2MJI, will lead a four-hour Software Defined Radio Sunday Seminar. The DCC Web page is <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc>>. --Steve Bible, N7HPR

Tech Support - Another IBM customer had trouble installing software and rang for support. "I put in the first disk, and that was OK. It said to put in the second disk, and had some problems with the disk. When it said to put in the third disk, I couldn't even fit it in..." The user hadn't realized that "Insert Disk 2" implied to remove Disk 1 first. .

See the ARRL Contest Branch page, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>
And <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.html>

An Opportunity to Grow in Our Hobby

Hi folks:

Winter is approaching and time to start looking at the possibilities of another advanced group for this year. I would like to gauge interest from our club members and from others in HRM that might be interested in participating. the Dartmouth club may have a few, and there may be others out there that want to participate.

The "terms of reference" for the last time we did this actually were fairly successful.

- Non club members could participate.
- Run like a seminar, not really a course.
- Goals were the practical knowledge, exam, and several projects.
- Lot's of hands on learning.
- Lot's of math (no getting around this, but it is actually pretty straightforward)
- Lot's of discussion of actual issues with transmitters, antenna's and amplifiers.
- Requires active participation. (By this, I mean every group member must be willing to input... this is not a "Course", as such. Difficult subjects will get extra attention)
- Once a week for a minimum of 3 weeks a month.
- Emphasis is biased towards HF, with VHF issues as needed.
- Lots of electronics and instrument use, as appropriate

Six will get it going, but 10 is a better number. Costs were for the study guide, and some of the group project costs. We built HF antenna's and QRP rigs, but project ideas are up in the air.

If you could pass this around for discussion to hams in the area, and give me some idea of your own interest, as soon as possible please.

Cheers,

Jeff Smith VE1ZAC

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, #. 27
July 11, 2003

From ISS during Field Day: US astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, worked more than three dozen stations from NA1SS aboard the International Space Station during Field Day 2003 June 28-29. The contacts appear to have been made during at least two ISS passes over North America. Operating the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station equipment, Lu managed to contact 39 stations in the US, Canada and Mexico on 2-meter FM simplex. For more information on ARISS, visit the ARISS Web site

<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>

*And one of those contacts was with
VE1FQ !! -ed.*

Tech Support - AST technical support had a caller complaining that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. The cover turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 31
NEW HF RFID TAG LIMITS

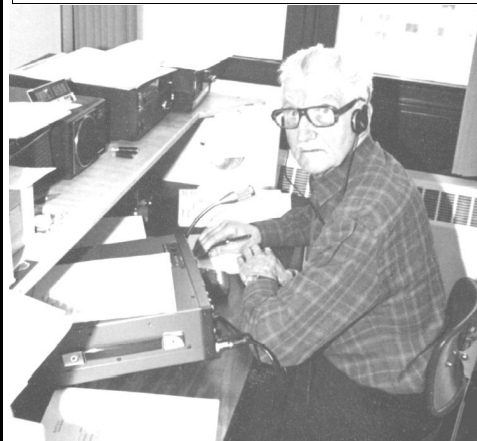
Little or no impact to the Amateur Service is expected at the low end of 20 meters in the wake of an FCC decision to raise the power limit for radio frequency identification (RFID) tags that operate in the vicinity of 13.5 MHz. Maximum field strength of harmonics from the devices in the range of 13.110 to 13.410 MHz & 13.710 to 14.010 MHz to increase from the current 30 uV/m to 106 uV/m at 30 meters. All other harmonics of the devices must remain below 30 uV/m at 30 meters.

The FCC said the changes would allow for improved operation and spur development of the RFID tag technology, as well as bring the standards in line with those in Europe & Australia.

*One good turn gets most of the
blankets.*

VE1BV - *This summer there was an Andy Hodder shaped hole in the amateur radio participation at Field Day, at the MS bike tour, down at the Acadia, at the Museum ships events...*

The camera must have caught Andy by surprise here at the Red Cross ham station. His normal expression was a smile or at least a twinkle. -ed.



Much of Andy's career kept him on or near the sea. The following is from his funeral service.

-ed.

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
The Lord lighteth me across the dark
waters and steereth me in deep channels.

The Lord keepeth my log
He guideth me by the star of loneliness
for his name's sake.

Yea though I sail through the thunders & tempests of life
I shall dread no danger
for thou art with me
Thy love and thy care they shelter me

Thou preparest a harbour for me
in the homeland of eternity.
Thou anointest thy waves with oil
My ship runneth calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour
me in the voyage I take. I shall
rest in the port of my God forever.
(found on a 17th century fisherman's
cottage wall at Lindesfame on Holy
Island, Scotland)

See the web site of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) at
<http://www.rsgb.org>